

**MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK**

**SPECIAL SESSION  
February 25, 2003**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Arizona convened at 1:30 p.m. February 25, 2003, in the Board of Supervisors' Conference room, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Fulton Brock, Chairman; Andy Kunasek, Vice Chairman; Don Stapley, Max W. Wilson, and Mary Rose Wilcox. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Shirley Million, Administrative Coordinator; David Smith, County Administrative Officer; and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney.

**PRESENTATION: FEDERAL LOBBYIST ON FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Items: 1) Status of current federal requests 2) Potential federal issues for next congressional session 3) Opportunity for federal funding for Human Services Campus 4) AZTECH 5) Hospital/Health Care 6) Homeland Security 7) report of status of federal tax intercept proposal. (ADM1650)

Chris Cushing, President of the Commonwealth Group, Washington, D.C. and a lobbyist for Maricopa County, said there had been opportunities for the County to work with those of like-mind to move agendas forward on several specific goals that were set earlier. He cited things that had been done during the past year to benefit the County with federal appropriations to help defray some of the costs and support the activities for programs of importance to the County and state. He specifically cited opportunities taken to voice concerns and promote support on issues involving border security and health care through the Arizona Congressional Delegation.

He said he had last met with the Board prior to October 1, 2002, when several areas were identified for continued funding with FY 2003 federal funds, as follows.

1. Funding for Maricopa Integrated Health System; continue the yearly appropriation of \$600,000 each year for equipment chiefly in the burn center and pediatric emergency room at MIHS.
2. Build-out on correctional tele-health program: inmates can be seen by doctor and treated given through televised consultations.
3. AZTECH emergency response traffic planning program.

He said that of the three, the tele-health initiative is the only one that did not receive funding. He indicated that Representative Bob Stump had been a proponent of this and in his absence no one had continued to push it forward. He felt the County might want to reconsider it for appropriations in 2004-05. This would partially be dependent on the status of the Homeless Campus and alleviating any confliction with fund appropriations for that in 2004. The other two programs received partial funding, \$3 million was paid directly to Maricopa County for AZTECH, and \$350,000 was line itemed for MIHS in the Omnibus report signed last week. The total for the County is \$3.35 million in additional federal funding over and above the formula funding and other grants ordinarily received yearly.

Chairman Brock asked for an update on contributions for the Human Services Campus (renamed from Gateway Community Campus). He was told that to date \$15 million has been received in cash and commitments. He added that Arizona State and one major city have not made a donation to this as yet. Discussion ensued on partnering with Phoenix and the State on this.

David Smith said they had been meeting with people throughout the County to increase commitment from entities other than Maricopa County. An additional \$10 million is needed for buildout on this plus \$2 million more for an endowment. He indicated that everyone should contribute to this and that all downtown businesses seem to want this to move forward. He said the County has donated \$8.8 million of

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the total and provided the initiative to move others into it. He also indicated that the Faith Based Initiative based in the White House is aware of this project and a meeting may be scheduled in Phoenix within the next two months to use this campus as an example of using public and private partnerships.

Mr. Cushing said he believed it would be "very important for the city and state to be involved more than on paper because the federal government likes multi-jurisdictional partnerships and is more likely to focus on who is not at the table rather than who is there." He indicated that this is definitely a project worthy of federal support. He said the urban renewal component could prove to be beneficial in getting funds from HUD. He indicated the importance of unanimity, saying that it would be detrimental to the campus to have requests submitted from various cities plus the county and state. It is necessary to be consolidated in what the Arizona delegation is requested to do.

Regarding First Responder Funds (since the 9-11-01 incident) he said that funds are being made ready for more than fire and police, etc. Private security, i.e., those working for nuclear plants, needs to receive specialized training as well. The trend is to move towards giving block grants to spend as needed versus a silo for police and another for firemen and most states would prefer block grants. Supervisor Stapley asked if the disputed shooting range in the West Valley could be used for this kind of training and Mr. Cushing thought it could be an asset.

Mr. Cushing responded to the County's concerns regarding healthcare and said the administration has proposed a Medicaid Reform Plan to take Medicaid payments (currently split into several accounts) and put them into only two accounts, Long Term Care and Acute Care, and also to make state participation voluntary. Those who do participate would receive "front-loaded dollars" over the next 10 years, which would be reduced after that period. Most governors do not support this idea. For counties there would be a disconnect since they provide the health care while the state would be making the decisions. The president is a proponent of having the funds go directly to the health care provider (Maricopa County) and not to the state.

Senator Kyl is leading the cause of trauma care reimbursement with his bill, S412, Local Emergency Health Reimbursement Act, which provides \$1.45 billion each year nationally to the top 17-18 states having financial difficulty because of emergency care to undocumented and uncompensated care. If that bill is passed, Arizona would receive approximately \$235 million per year. Mr. Kolbe is introducing a similar bill in the House. There are other bills also introduced, including one by Senator Frist, in which compensation would be paid to the states.

Supervisor Stapley said he was in a meeting with Senator Frist's staff, "I think they got the message loud and clear" (reimbursing the state vs. the provider). He remarked on the different perspectives found on the same issue by members in the House and Senate. He said that Senator McCain has now signed on to Senator Kyl's bill giving it very powerful support. He explained that MIHS is the most uncompensated trauma center in Arizona and passage of this bill could help dramatically since their payer-mix is next to zero. Senator Kyl has asked Supervisor Stapley to join him, Senator McCain and other proponents of the bill in a press conference next Tuesday. Supervisor Stapley said this is a well-thought out bill that gets the money to where the real need is – with the uncompensated care trauma centers who need it.

Chairman Brock spoke about the bill being designed for the border states. He explained, "We seem to be the only public health care system in the country where the state picks off our reimbursement of Dispro Funds. When funding is sent to the County, Arizona State will typically take the portion coming directly to

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Maricopa County out of our shared sales tax revenues. He asked if there is anything in the bill that insulates first-line providers like our County hospital, to keep this from happening?"

Mr. Cushing said that S412 provides that 2/3 of the funds would go directly to the hospitals and providers on an application process to the Department of Health and Human Services. The 1/3 portion would go directly to the six states having the largest amount of uncompensated care and Arizona would fall into that category. The federal government could not get involved in anything between the state and county. The intention federally, is to compensate both the state and provider at certain levels. He had no information on when this bill might be voted on.

Mr. Cushing stated that the Transportation Authorization Act is reauthorized every five years. This Act is where the benchmarks are set for federal transportation funding going forward. Without doing anything, Arizona will probably receive transportation funding for the next five years as it did in the previous five years. He said that the County should discuss selected transportation programs and AZTECH with the Arizona delegation to request the authorization and appropriations that are of interest to the County. He added that some of the Trails issues could be included in the transportation requests.

Discussion ensued on a timely release of HUD funds which will be delayed until after the beginning of FY 2003-04 so they can interact with and make explanations to Congress prior to the release. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance program from which Arizona received \$1.8 million. He said that the Maricopa County legislative staff worked actively on this and could be congratulated because in the latest batch of funding no money went to Texas and a "good chunk of funds" went to Arizona. He indicated that this was at least partially due to the work that was done for the County by staff.

Mr. Cushing indicated that the courts are working on a tax intercept idea and federal legislation in which courts would be allowed to access IRS for tax refunds for payment of fines. The Arizona Supreme Court estimates it would be to \$100 million per year once the program is running in Arizona. Ten percent of the funds would go to victims and the remainder to cities and counties in Arizona. Governor Napalitano has line items \$50 million from it but Mr. Cushing said the law would have to be changed to allow that. Currently the money goes to cities and counties and not to the state.

Several topics were briefly discussed, including the future of Luke Air Force Base and projected base closures. Mr. Cushing responded that another round of base closures is scheduled for 2005. The various levels of the guest worker program was briefly discussed but there is no consensus as yet on what it should do and how it should function. It was stated that it would be difficult to do the necessary negotiations with the Mexican Government unless designated as a pilot program. It would benefit both Arizona and Mexico if it becomes functional.

Regarding directed negotiations for next year, Mr. Cushing recommended asking for additional funding for AZTECH over the original \$5 million. McDot would like an additional \$7 million for AZTECH. On the Homeless Campus he suggested submitting three separate requests. 1. Medical Equipment on the campus: 2. Education and Training to prepare for job search and employment: 3. Outdoor structures to provide protection from heat and cold: 4. Redevelop Tele-health by applying for a competitive grant of \$250,000.

Supervisor Stapley said that the County is very lucky to have Senator Kyl, a member of the Finance Committee, Senator McCain, Chairman of the Commerce Committee, and possessing a national reputation. In the House, J. D. Hayworth is a member of Ways and Means and Mr. Pastor and Mr. Kolbe

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are on Appropriations and Mr. Shaddegg on Energy and Commerce. He concluded that "We need to play on those strengths."

Mr. Cushing added that the country as a whole is uneducated on the problems of the Border, how it affects counties and how the ultimate dollar is paid. The populace needs to understand the meaning of undocumented or uncompensated care and that it is required by federal law. They think it is being given out rather than the County having to meet a long-standing requirement. Senator McCain could serve a great purpose in using his "bully pulpit" to educate them that "there's no such thing as uncompensated care because the buck stops 'here' at the end of the day. This is not something that we have yet asked of him but maybe it's something that we would want to ask of him.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Fulton Brock, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

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Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board